

The Sprocket Society (Seattle, WA) – www.sprocketociety.org

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The Sprocket Society and The Disembodied Theater Corporation present

KEEP WARM, BURN BRITAIN!
An Evening of Films, Performance, and Live Music

Featuring:

Magic Lantern / slide show and experimental short films by **ROSS LIPMAN**
Plus live music by **RUBY THICKET** and the **PHILISTINE LIBRATION ORCHESTRA**

The JewelBox Theater at The Rendezvous

Sunday, April 13, 2008

7:00 PM

2322 2nd Ave. in Belltown (Seattle, WA)

Admission: \$5.00 suggested donation

The Sprocket Society is proud to present the Seattle debut of Los Angeles filmmaker and restorationist ROSS LIPMAN with a program featuring an excerpt from his latest original work-in-progress – performed live as a Magic Lantern / slide show – plus a selection of his earlier experimental short films and documentaries. There will also be live music by Seattle's own RUBY THICKET and the PHILISTINE LIBERATION ORCHESTRA.

Ross Lipman is internationally known for his experimental film/video and performance works, which have appeared at such venues as the London International Film Festival, Anthology Film Archives (NYC), Los Angeles Film Forum, San Francisco Cinematheque, Chinese Taipei Film Archive (Taiwan), and many others. Lipman is also one of the world's leading figures in the restoration of independent cinema, working at the UCLA Film and Television Archive. The National Society of Film Critics gave Lipman their 2007 Film Heritage Award "for the restoration of Charles Burnett's *Killer of Sheep* and other independent films."

Ross Lipman's *Keep Warm, Burn Britain!* is a personal memoir of the squatting movement in East London during the 1980s. It chronicles the lives of the anarchists, outcasts, and punks who lived in a small enclave of abandoned buildings south of the Thames, known as "Squatter's Paradise." Tonight Lipman performs an excerpt of this work-in-progress as a Magic Lantern / slide show; ultimately it will be a feature-length 35mm film. It features music by **Thoth**, the legendary NY street performer who is the subject of an Academy Award-winning documentary short.

Also showing tonight are these short films by Lipman:

- ***10-17-88*** (1989, 16mm) – Optically printed collage of found and archival footage, with audio collage by John Shaw (of Ruby Thicket) on themes from Debussy and Ellington.
- ***Afternoon in Bottle Village*** (2007, DV) – A requiem for Grandma Prisbrey's cathedral of light, built entirely of glass bottles, pencils, and industrial detritus. With a score improvised on a broken piano by Jodie Baltazar (aka Monotrona).
- ***The Gift: Michael Barrish Screen Test*** (1997, Super-8) – A screen test for film that was never made, a feature-length narrative about the unbridgeable gap and connection between a father and son.

(more)

Artist's Statement

PERSONAL ETHNOGRAPHIES

In the beginning ethnography was distant and neutral; so we told ourselves. Then, as in physics, we realized the effect of the observer upon the observed.

These works are neither avant garde cinema or traditional ethnography. I report on groups or environments of which I'm already a part. They include portraits and documents, landscapes and stories. They take the form of films, videos, photos, and recordings that tell something about a person or group of people: how they live and how they relate to each other. They're both removed and engaged, observing and participating, impersonal and extremely personal. And yes, they are artworks, with all the ambiguities the word implies, not reports or studies. No matter how much I claim otherwise.

– Ross Lipman

Selected Critical Praise for the Work of Ross Lipman

“Lipman’s films chronicle the lives of men and women on the periphery of our vision; who slip through the cracks in the system, who walk invisibly by us each day. His medium ranges from photographs to Super-8, 16mm and 35mm film, and each work orchestrates light, language, and silence to create cinematic portraits that fall on a spectrum between document and story.”

– **Konrad Steiner**, filmmaker, curator, San Francisco Cinematheque/Kino 21

[10-17-88, screening tonight,] “uses deft optical printing and a fascinating musical collage to yield a densely layered combo of sound and image.”

– **Jonathan Rosenbaum**, *Chicago Reader* “Critic’s Choice”

“Lipman’s films are wonderful. ...strong and delicate at the same time; it’s unique. The rhythm and colors are so subtle, deep and soft.”

– **Nicole Brenez**, curator, Cinémathèque Française

“Ross has almost single-handedly established a major tradition of preserving avant-garde and independent American film at UCLA and deserves our thanks.”

– **Dr. Jan-Christopher Horak**, Director, UCLA Film & Television Archive

Ruby Thicket

Ruby Thicket are an acoustic band from Seattle fronted by singer-songwriter **John Shaw** (vocals, guitar, bass, harmonica) and featuring **Bob Barraza** (vocals, drums, shakuhachi flute, ukulele), **Jillian Graham** (vocals, guitar), **Robert Hinrix** (vocals, mandolin, bass) and **Mac McClure** (vocals, bowed saw). They have self-released a CD, *You Never Know What You'll See*. Sample MP3s from that release can be downloaded from the band’s web site at http://thatsoundsgood.net/rt_downloads.html

(more)

The Sprocket Society (event sponsor)

Formed in 2007, The Sprocket Society (Seattle, WA) is a group devoted to cultivating the love of the mechanical cinema, its arts and sciences by bringing film and its history to the public through screenings, educational activities, and our own archival efforts.

More information about the Society can be found online at <http://www.SprocketSociety.org>

Related Event (*not affiliated with The Sprocket Society*)

Ross Lipman to lecture at the 2008 Pop Conference at EMP

2008 Pop Conference at EMP

Shake, Rattle: Music, Conflict, and Change

April 10-13, 2008, Seattle, Washington

<http://www.empsfm.org/education/index.asp?categoryID=26>

Freedom Then (panel)

Friday, April 11, 2008, 2:00 - 3:45 PM

Ross Lipman presents his lecture “**Mingus, Cassavetes, and the Politics of Improv,**” examining the complex and explosive collaboration of John Cassavetes and Charles Mingus for the film *Shadows* (1959). Through an integration of film clips, texts, and still photographs, this presentation examines connections between the film’s loose narrative – of three mixed-race siblings living day-to-day in mid-50s New York bohemia – and the film’s revolutionary making, which in many ways inverted the plot.

Lipman restored *Shadows* for the UCLA Film and Television Archive. A short documentary about the restoration is included on the 2004 DVD release by the Criterion Collection.

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